Claims

1.   Method for designing and/or configuring a project which
represents automation equipment (4) for controlling a plant,
5   -   project design blocks (Pbl, ..., Pbn) being stored in a
        library in a memory of an engineering system (2), which
        memory is connected to a programming device (13, 14, 15,
        16) of the engineering system (2),
    -   copies of the project design blocks required for
10   designing and/or configuring the project being storable
        on the programming device,
    characterized by the following method steps:
    -   there are saved references (18a, 18b, ..., 18e)
        indicating which project design blocks (Pbl, ..., Pbn)
15   are to be copied,
    -   according to the references (18a, ..., 18e) the project
        design blocks (Pbl, ..., Pbn) are automatically copied
        and stored on the programming device (13, 14, 15, 16).

20 2.   Method according to claim 1, characterized in that, in
    case copies should already be stored on the programming
    device, the revision levels of the copies are compared with
    the revision levels of the project design blocks currently
    stored in the library, copies being replaced by the current
25 project design blocks on the basis of a user request if the
    revision levels of the copies are older than the revision
    levels of the current project design blocks.

    3.   Method according to claim 2, characterized in that the
30 references are erasable, the consequence of an erased
    reference being that the copy associated with this reference

cannot be replaced by a copy of a current project design block.

4. Method according to claim 2 or 3, <u>characterized in that</u>
5 - the project can be subdivided into a plurality of part projects which can be designed on different connectable programming devices,
- the user request is displayed on each programming device,
- copies are replaced by current project design blocks on
10 the basis of the user request if the user request is accepted by the users of all the programming devices.

5. Engineering system for designing and/or configuring a project which represents automation equipment (4) of a plant
15 that is to be controlled,
- project design blocks (Pb1, ..., Pbn) being storable in a library in a memory of the engineering system (2), which memory is connectable to a programming device (13, 14, 15, 16) of the engineering system (2),
20 - copies of the project design blocks (Pb1, ..., Pbn) required for designing and/or configuring the project being storable on the programming device (13, 14, 15, 16),
<u>characterized in that</u> the engineering system (2) is provided
25 with a software tool by means of which,
- on the programming device (13, 14, 15, 16), there can be stored references (18a, 18b, ..., 18e) indicating which project design blocks (Pb1, ..., Pbn) are to be copied,
- according to the references (18a, 18b, ..., 18e) the
30 project design blocks (Pb1, ..., Pbn) can be automatically copied and stored on the programming device (13, 14, 15, 16).

6.   Engineering system according to claim 5, <u>characterized in</u> <u>that</u>, in case copies should already be stored on the programming device, the software tool can be used to compare the revision levels of the copies with the revision levels of the project design blocks currently stored in the library, the software tool replacing copies by the current project design blocks on the basis of a user request if the revision levels of the copies are older than the revision levels of the current project design blocks.

7.   Engineering system according to claim 4, <u>characterized in</u> <u>that</u> the software tool can also be used to erase the references, the consequence of an erased reference being that the software tool does not replace the copy associated with this reference by a copy of a current project design block.

8.   Engineering system according to claim 4 or 5, having means by which the project can be subdivided into a plurality of part projects which can be designed on different connectable programming devices, <u>characterized</u> <u>in that</u> the software tool can also be used to
-    display the user request on each programming device,
-    replace copies by current project design blocks on the basis of the user request if the user request is accepted by the users of all the programming devices.

9.   Programming device having a software tool of an engineering system according to one of claims 5 to 8.